

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
July 11, 2005**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on July 11, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs, Chohany, and Freiling. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads: Clayton, Nester, Yost, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Center—Briefing by Director Joanne Smith

Ms. Smith greeted Council members and provided them with a copy of the Juvenile Detention Commission's "Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2004." Ms. Smith provided an overview regarding the detention center and provided an update to the 2004 report. The Center opened in December of 1997 and is located on Merrimac Trail next to the Regional Jail. It is a secure 48-bed facility for juveniles ages 7 to 17.

Ms. Smith provided Council with information about the Center's programs. The educational program focuses on providing a learning environment rather than a punitive one. A treatment program addresses substance abuse and mental health, and focuses more on treatment progress and less on behavior. Medical services are also available at the center. Ms. Smith said the newly added horticultural program and greenhouse has been very successful. She reviewed the statistics provided and reported that fifteen Williamsburg juveniles were admitted to the center this year as compared to 29 last year.

Ms. Smith concluded her briefing by inviting Council members to attend the upcoming open house at the center in September, and extending an open invitation to come at any time.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Ms. Smith for her report and update. The Mayor said she spoke to two classes at the center two years ago, and was impressed with the environment, the caring and competent teachers, and the opportunities available.

Council members and Ms. Smith briefly discussed the rates of turn over and recidivism at the center, goals and outcomes, schooling/learning environment for residents, and funding. Mayor Zeidler expressed Council's appreciation for the work of the center. Mr. Freiling commented that he would like to visit the center.

Crossroads Community Youth Home—Briefing by Anne Smith, York County Director of Community Services and Colonial Group Home Commission Administrator

Ms. Anne Smith prefaced her remarks by saying that the Merrimac Center is, in her opinion, the best run facility of its kind in Virginia and perhaps the nation.

Ms. Smith's Powerpoint presentation (attached) provided Council with an overview of the Crossroads Community Youth Home, an alternative to secure juvenile detention. Ms. Smith provided Council with a history of the Crossroads Community Group Home and the Group Home Commission (2 representatives each from Williamsburg, James City County, York County, and Gloucester County). York County is the managing jurisdiction. Crossroads provides a non-secure residential program for delinquent males between the ages of 13-18, and is heavily therapeutic.

The current facility, built in 1941, and located on Longhill Road, was never intended to be a group home. It is deteriorating and costly to maintain. Ms. Smith showed slides of the interior of the house explaining why it is inadequate for this type of facility.

In the 1990's the Group Home Commission started to plan for a new facility. For years, the General Assembly placed a moratorium on the construction of this type of facility. In the meantime, repairs were more and more costly. In 2004, the localities' Chief Administrative Officers decided to reactivate the replacement program. With a lot of hard work, members of the House and Senate Finance Committees were convinced of the need for a new facility. The General Assembly accepted the program in the 2005 session, and recently the requirements of the Department of Justice were met. The proposed new facility is one story, 7,000 square feet, eighteen beds, and will be co-ed. It will be modeled after the City of Hampton's group home, and they have shared their construction plans.

Ms. Smith said that at the July 14 meeting, Council will act on a proposed land lease agreement between the city and the Colonial Group Home Commission which has been reviewed by the attorneys of the four localities. The 30-year lease will have two 5-year renewals, and require an initial single payment rental of \$180,000 at onset. The existing facility on Longhill Road will be sold and will close after the new facility is occupied. The State's share of \$37,222 per bed (and other land/construction costs) will be reimbursed after construction of the new facility. She emphasized the value of this type of facility, and referred Council members to the information provided in their packets.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Ms. Smith for the presentation and the tremendous amount of work on obtaining a new facility with the budget challenges that existed.

Ms. Smith answered questions from members regarding funding, placement, and location of the facility.

Mr. Phillips addressed the lease agreement. The State Constitution limits the lease to a period of 40 years. The lease agreement before Council on Thursday is for 30 years with a fixed rent, with the option of two 5-year extensions by negotiation. Should the lease not be renewed, the city would own the building.

Mr. Scruggs recognized Mr. Pete Parks and Stuart Smith for their work on the Crossroads facility and their commitment to the program. He was pleased with the work at the facility

and plans for a new facility, and was glad that local judges have the option to use this type of facility. He felt it was best to invest in our youth up front, and was appreciative of this intervention opportunity so that kids are not in jail as wards of the city or state. He was pleased that Council supports this vision.

Mr. Freiling concurred with Mr. Scruggs comments. Ms. Smith responded to Mr. Freiling that should the facility be full, the juveniles may be ordered into facilities elsewhere in Virginia. Also, Judges may order juveniles from other localities to our facility (at a charge). However, the number of juvenile facilities has declined because of the funding cuts by the 2002 General Assembly. Ms. Smith confirmed that the new Crossroads facility was unique in its acceptance by the General Assembly.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Ms. Smith and said Council would consider the land lease at the July 14 meeting.

College Corner Round-About Feasibility Study—Report by Carl Tewksbury of Kimley-Horn and Associates

Reference for this item was the report “College Corner Transportation Study.” Mr. Clayton said that following the completion of the Jamestown Road Area Parking and Traffic Study, Council asked that staff look into the possibility of a roundabout at College Corner. He introduced Mr. Carl Tewksbury and Mr. David Whyte of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to present their recent findings.

Mr. Tewksbury provided an overview of the information provided in the report. He said that the College Corner configuration has changed very little over many years. The purpose of this study was to evaluate College Corner as it relates to vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, and to consider the installation of a roundabout at the intersection and if it would work operationally. A goal was to protect pedestrian safety. When traffic counts were being done, it was noticed that a significant volume of pedestrians were mixing with a high traffic volume. Traffic flows are mostly steady in the intersection, but during peak periods, pedestrian traffic caused vehicles to queue at the intersection.

Mr. Tewksbury discussed possible options for the intersection. One option was to add a raised crosswalk to improve the mix of vehicles and pedestrians. Other options were to make Boundary Street or Jamestown Road as the through movement with signalization.

Mr. Tewksbury said they roundabout was revisited and evaluated. A roundabout was not recommended for this intersection because, while it was geometrically feasible and would handle traffic volumes, the vehicular/pedestrian conflicts make it operationally difficult. Traffic flow would be disrupted due to delays at pedestrian crossings.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Tewksbury and Mr. Whyte for their presentation. It was helpful to know that a roundabout was not an option. She asked Mr. Tuttle about future plans for the intersection. Mr. Tuttle said that this study takes the roundabout off the table. At a future time when the city feels the intersection needs to be improved because of increased traffic, the “T” approaches may be considered.

Mr. Haulman was appreciative of the report and to get a decision on the roundabout. The options are intriguing. The traffic at the intersection has not changed much over the last 15

years and it is not forecasted to change dramatically in the future. The intersection works now and it is near accident-free. Traffic lights will cause delays and the current intersection encourages courtesy. This intersection has been in existence for 300 years and its history should be taken into account. It was good to have this study in reserve.

Mr. Chohany was appreciative of the well-done report. It helped him to see the obvious and to change his support of the roundabout. It sets a benchmark for numbers, especially the pedestrian information. Mr. Clayton responded that the study cost was \$10,000.

Mr. Tewksbury replied to Mr. Freiling that the study did not consider a realignment of the intersection with no signal, such as a three-way stop, because of right-of-way issues and accidents. Mr. Whyte said they did consider a "pedestrian only" signal phase at the intersection.

Richmond Road Status—Report by Department of Public Works/Utilities Director Dan Clayton

Mr. Clayton reported that the Richmond Road contract has been awarded to Branscom, Incorporated, a local contractor. He credited Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Nester for their efforts to obtain funding for the project. The section from Brooks Street to the Williamsburg Shopping Center will be a beautification project, and in the section from the Shopping Center to Bypass Road, a lane will be added to increase traffic capacity and reduce congestion. The city and VDOT have met to discuss construction and the roles of the city and VDOT on the project. Weekly updates will be provided by VDOT on their website, with a link from the city's website. Branscom is anxious to start the project in mid-to-late August in order to meet the completion deadline of December 2006. A \$4,000 per day incentive is planned for early completion of the project. Mr. Clayton said that this project will be challenging because of traffic conditions and communication will be key. One advantage is that the underground wiring project on the road has been completed. Key personnel on the project are local and known in the community. The benefits of the new streetscape will far out way the construction inconveniences.

Mr. Clayton said he hoped the Treyburn Drive construction project contract will be before Council in August, Monticello/Ironbound Intersection will be widened in January/February, and the Route 199 project should be completed the end of November.

Mayor Zeidler was pleased that the Richmond Road project will start. Mr. Chohany thanked Mr. Clayton and recognized the recent improvements to city streets and the Monticello Avenue streetscape improvement.

Mr. Freiling asked that a phasing schedule be available to the public so that they will be aware of possible traffic issues and alternative routes to mitigate backups.

Mr. Haulman appreciated the bike lanes on Henry Street.

Preview of July 14, 2005 Council Meeting:

No additional information was requested.

City Council Communications (No reports).

Schedule of Meetings: July 2005

Council members received a copy of the meeting calendar for July.

Design Review Guidelines Committee: Mr. Haulman and Mr. Scruggs reported that the committee will meet on July 28, 5:00 p.m., in the third floor conference at the Municipal Building. The meeting is open to the public.

Ms. Zeidler said the Neighborhood Council did not meet in July, but meetings will resume in August.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session. No one wished to speak.
The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter per subparagraph 1, regarding appointments to boards and commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The Mayor called a three-minute recess.

At 3:44 p.m. Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: July 11, 2005

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Chohany

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved: August 11, 2005

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council